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U.S. Reported Recalling CIA Chief in Saigon

WASHINGTON (AP)—John H. Richardson, chief of the CIA operation in South Viet Nam, is being recalled to Washington, it was reported Friday.

The stated purpose of bringing the Central Intelligence Agency official home at this time is that he is wanted for consultation, but qualified field officials said it was unlikely that he would return to South Viet Nam.

U.S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge is reported on good authority to have requested Richardson's replacement.

Changes Studied

Lodge is also reported to be considering various personnel changes in the U.S. staff in the war-torn country, following the crisis in U.S. relations with the government of President Ngo Dinh Diem.

As CIA chief, Richardson has been one of the key officials in the development of the U.S. role of helping the Diem government to fight Communist guerrilla forces. Officials said Friday that in this respect he had an excellent record.

There have been persistent reports, however, of differences between Lodge and the CIA staff as well as differences within the CIA group and other agencies operating under Lodge's general direction. As a result it has been expected that Lodge would shake up the U.S. mission at Saigon since a number of officials reportedly have outlived their usefulness in the jobs they now hold.

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